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A Christmas Morning Breakfast



WOMEN WAR WORKERS, EAGER TO SERVE, GO TO AID ARMENIANS

Mary Vail Andrees, Only Woman
to Receive Distinguished Service
Medal, Heads Party.

Disappointed with uneventful civilian life, after two years' vivid experience as workers abroad in the world war, a party of young women, led by Miss Mary Vail Andrees, of New York City, have just gone to the Near East.



MISS MARY VAIL ANDREES,
Distinguished Service Heroine Who
Now Goes to Near East.

where nearly a million people are suffering from disease and starvation. Miss Andrees had returned to this country after serving for the Red Cross, but when she read of the plight of the Armenians, she at once offered her services to Near East Relief, the former American Committee on Armenian and Syrian Relief, which already has saved thousands of lives in Western Asia. Miss Andrees is the only American woman war worker who was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal by Congress. Most of the other members of her party likewise served with honor for the Red Cross and other war service organizations.

Among the other members of the group are the Misses Frances and Betty Anderson of New Canaan, Conn., who were decorated with the Croix de Guerre by the French Government; Miss Margaret Milne of Washington D. C., who was a member of the Hoover Relief Commission for Rumania, and Miss Alex Sidney, an English woman who served for three years with the British Relief Commission in Serbia. Miss Doris Nevill, another member of the party, is a daughter of the late Ethelbert Nevill, the composer.

Col. William N. Haskell, commissioner to the Near East for the Paris Peace Commission and official representative of the Near East Relief, has cabled that the relief workers now in the field are overwhelmed by the magnitude of their task. Col. Haskell says 800,000 Armenians will starve before the next harvest unless they are given aid and 120,000 orphan children face death from hunger and exposure.

Thousands of refugees are daily being brought to the relief centers from the deserts.

Near East Situation

Now "Most Desperate
in World," Says Hoover.



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Herbert Hoover.

Herbert Hoover, who has now become a member of the Executive Committee of Near East Relief, which is caring for nearly 2,000,000 Armenian and Syrian refugees and who, if any one, speaks with authority when he tells of human suffering, says in a formal statement:

"In my opinion, the situation in the Near East is the most desperate in the world."

Mr. Hoover has sent a letter to Cleveland H. Dodge, treasurer of Near East Relief, 1 Madison avenue, New York, in which he says:

"In accepting your invitation to become a member of the Executive Committee of the Near East committee, I do so with reluctance, but out of a sense of duty towards one of the most difficult situations in Europe. Until some political settlement can be obtained for the Near East and some government established in responsibility for the care and repatriation of the Armenian population in the Caucasus, this mass of people must live cheerily by the charity of the United States. There are in the Caucasus approximately 1,800,000 Armenians, of whom 800,000 are entirely destitute—refugees from Turkey—and amongst them a tremendous mass of children.

"I cannot too strongly urge upon the members of the committee and their supporters the critical necessity of concentrating every possible effort to support Colonel Haskell's administration in the amounts that he requires; otherwise we shall witness one of the greatest tragedies of the entire war."

DEATH RATE DROPS WHEN RELIEF ARRIVES

Lives of thousands of Armenian children already have been saved by the Near East Relief taking over the Armenian orphanages, according to detailed reports, which have just reached the headquarters of that organization. These institutions had been run by the Armenians since the beginning of the war to care for the children whose parents had been murdered by the Turks. Because of lack of food, clothing and medicine, the death rate among the children in these institutions averaged as high as twenty or thirty a day in some cases.

When Armenian funds became inadequate the Near East Relief took charge of the orphanage. Since that time the death rate has been greatly reduced. Given good food and care the children are quickly returning to normal physical and mental condition.

It is estimated by persons who have made a survey of Armenia that 120,000 children will die during the next year unless they are given food and care. Near East Relief is the only organization now operating in Western Asia and it is making an appeal to save these Christian children.

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